

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

June 5, 2007

Address Reply to

Win Stebbins, Chairman
Technical Committee on Environmental Design
Michigan DOT Design Division
P.O. Box 30050 Lansing, Michigan 48909

The Spring 2007 meeting of the AASHTO Technical Committee on Environmental Design was held May 7-11, 2007 at Harbor Springs, hosted by the Michigan DOT. 13 members and 6 presenters attending are listed at the end, as are the Final Agenda and current membership addresses and duties. The theme of the field trips and some presentations was Transportation and Conservation Easements: Public Use of Both.

Jim McDonnell reported for AASHTO, telling of last week's SCOH Executive Meeting where many items of interest to TCED were discussed: They ask member input on how to address Context Sensitive Solutions within AASHTO, offering three scenarios:

- 1) Special CSS Committee with 24-30 members, with TCED, Geometrics, and _____ to be named as members from SCOD;
 - 2) High Level CSS Policy Group with 8-12 members;
- 3) Integrate CSS through all existing committees, don't segregate since already integrated thus no special committee required; or
- 4) Other ideas.

The current high-level AASHTO CSS Task Force has 12-15 currently active, plus 15 others loosely participating. SCOH requested every Subcommittee and TC review and comment on this CSS Work Plan, and report back for decision at SCOH's Fall 2007 meeting. TCED will make input to SCOD's June meeting. (TCED asks: will the draft CSS Work Plan options be distributed by E-Mail to TCs? Not received by May 30.)

The Standing Committee on Research met at SCOH last week and gave their list of funded research for 2008. In a change for future annual Calls for Research, all TCs will now submit their Research requests through their Subcommittee (SCOD for us) for prioritization before submittal rather than TCs individually submit directly to SCOR.

Jim also reported SCOH reaffirmed that the future Chair of each Technical Committee must be a member of the parent Subcommittee. He reported that for Hydrology and Hydraulics to comply, Mike Fazio, next Chair of the TCHH, has been appointed by Utah's Engineer of Design as one of their three allowed Utah DOT members on SCOD (Utah's Hydraulics is in Design) as TCHH's way to comply with (a work-around) the

SCOH rule regarding TC Chairs. TCED members discussed a better option for TCED's multi-disciplined membership (Design Engineers, Landscape Architects, NEPA) would be for SCOD to directly Appoint the Elected Chair of TCED as a non-voting member of SCOD; this could also apply to H&H, Pavements, and VE since they too have TC Members from multiple areas of DOTs, not just working in Design.

Jim also reported on draft findings of the small Group reviewing the current SCOD organization; they want to increase communication with all Technical Committees, want SCOD to have some role in oversight of TCs and activities, and are discussing possibly having each TC present a 2-hour breakout session at the June 2008 SCOD meeting. Apparently they have decided that SCOD should NOT break up TCs, nor require each TC and members to meet in conjunction with the June 2008 SCOD annual meeting. This review group will report at SCOD's June 2007 meeting. TCED will report on SCOD's non-existent use of E-Mail, letter, and telephone, at least with TCED the past 5 years.

Jim will re-send us instructions for using the AASHTO Portal for posting material for TCED members' use or for public viewing.

Barbara Bauer was attending her first TCED meeting, and reported on activity at FHWA. One item mentioned: FHWA is wondering why there is such a diverse view of CSS around the country, and FHWA wonders how best to present CSS's Need, Definition, and Implementation. There is much activity in CSS posted at the AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence's website www.environment.transportation.org. Barbara will write minutes beginning with the October 2007 meeting.

Keith Robinson was attending his first TCED meeting, and reported on the NCHRP Consultant rewrite of the 1991 Landscape Design Guide, and on TCED's expected role in reviewing the material at the same time as submitted to the NCHRP Guidance group. TCED's first review is expected this June or July, then another (maybe the 2nd and last) review in May-June 2008. Keith will send the electronic text submittal to each member on TCED, and we will have no more than 2-3 weeks for returning our individual comments to Keith. Keith encouraged us to seek the review of others (LAs, Maintenance, Operations, etc) in our DOTs, but we should please coordinate their responses into a single timely response from each member of TCED back to Keith. Jeff Caster is also on the NCHRP Guidance Group for this rewrite, expected to become an on-line document. TCED will be the group recommending Adoption of the rewritten AASHTO Guide for SCOD and AASHTO Balloting.

Tom Bailey, Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy www.landtrust.org, told about Land Conservancies and Conservation Easements. LTC's protected properties in Michigan's northern lower and eastern upper peninsulas provide green space along State Trunklines and County Roads; many LTC properties do not have driveways or parking spaces off the adjacent road. Unlike lands protected by The Nature Conservancy, LTC allows a broader array of local reasons (public access, vistas, ____ in addition to nature) for purchasing properties to protect them than only

'nature reasons'. MDOT reported that the LTC and similar protected properties require no additional attention from MDOT maintenance or operation staff, but the properties benefit motorists and residents by their preserved nature and reduced or eliminated development potential. Visit the Land Trust Alliance www.LTA.org to find various Land Trusts or Conservancies in your state.

Tuesday afternoon's field trip included a guided tour of a 1993 reclaimed industrial site outside Petoskey with five miles of Lake Michigan shoreline that previously contained limestone quarries, cement manufacturing, and shipment by boat. It now has been turned into a multi-billion dollar residential, recreational, and business development called Bay Harbor. www.bayharbor.com

Wednesday morning's PowerPoint programs presented by MDOT were of the Detroit River International Crossing planning study and EIS being done jointly with Ontario, Transport Canada, and FHWA; MDOT's Prescribed Fire Burns to enhance wildflowers; the USFS Permit to allow MDOT to plow drifting sand all summer off US-2 pavement and shoulders along the top of Lake Michigan; and Michigan's 'Quad Four' rest area buildings with the tile floor showing the state outline and all five Great Lakes. Contact information is:

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Fire Burns Ulri Zay zayu@mighigan.gov 517 373-0749

Plowing Summer Sand Dave Schuen schuend@michigan.gov 517 373-3075

Rest Area Buildings Bob Zelski zelskir@michigan.gov 517 241-3211

Keith Robinson led additional discussion about TCED's review of working drafts of the Landscape Guide, and answered questions from the group. His suggestions for TCED review were accepted by TCED membership.

TCED discussion about our preferences for the future of CSS within AASHTO came to these preliminary preferences (not listed in any preference order); one or more to be presented by TCED to SCOD's June 2007 annual meeting:

- Integrate CSS into all AASHTO Subcommittees and Technical Committees, do
 not create a new separate CSS Subcommittee. All Subcommittees and TCs
 should own the CSS Process, with everyone responsible for implementation by
 involving Stakeholders early, often, and continuous on all DOT road, bridge, and
 other projects from Crack Sealing to Resurfacing to Reconstruction to New
 Routes.
- 2) Whatever group is established must include both Chief Engineers and Grass Root CSS Practioners. Integration without discussion will not prove beneficial because Chief Engineers need to be educated on benefits of CSS, as some practioners say they are frustrated because their Supervisors or Chief Engineers will not allow the CSS Process component to be implemented due to unknown outcomes. The current poor state of many DOT's finances does not encourage much new discussion with the Public; DOTs are concerned that the public will ask that costly non-pavement and non-bridge items be constructed with the planned work.

- 3) The CSS solution needed now in 2007/08 hopefully will no longer be needed in 5-10 years. AASHTO and FHWA need to work together, plus work with Universities so future DOT employees come already knowing the CSS Process.
- 4) Make CSS a Requirement in the strengthened NexTEA legislation. SAFETEA-LU and predecessors have *allowed* the use of CSS, not *mandated* its use. If CSS is left an option, CSS will not be implemented nationwide for a long time.
- 5) State and National DOT Awards for CSS Process create staff and DOT pride in submitting CSS efforts, even if not selected. Market the efforts of each State and Local DOT. Prove the economics and Public Satisfaction, and others will follow using CSS. DOT's should encourage City and County Transportation Agencies to also use CSS; CSS isn't just for State DOTs.
- 6) Combining parts of above: AASHTO should assign CSS to all Subcommittees throughout AASHTO to be a meeting topic for the next 3 years, and to most TC's (CSS might not be totally appropriate for some TCs like Pavements); work with FHWA on training and benefits; and strengthen CSS application in NexTea. While all this is going on 'under the surface', AASHTO, FHWA, and State DOT Execs should keep mentioning and championing CSS at their DOT and at every conference and gathering, in word, projects, and awards.

TCED members asked to review TCED's annual input to SCOD next month, especially the CSS preferences and the wording pertaining to members electing their next TCED Chair. Both items will be shared in draft form with members for review before submittal.

TCED discussion about possible Future Discussion and/or Research Topics included: Stormwater, NPDES, BMP's, Bio-Remediation, Rain Gardens (retain stormwater rather than pass it)

Delivering CSS Training, Keeping CSS Alive by Executive Talk and Staff Action, and broadening CSS application to County and City Transportation Agencies

Green Highways, LEED, DOTs using Recycled Materials for mentioned uses and outcomes, using solar or wind power for specified uses and outcomes, no-flush urinals, bio-fuels, ____

Dan Stewart presented two recent programs/projects from PennDOT: Reduced Bridge Widths on Low Volume Roads, and 4(f) Streamlining consisting of a Categorical Exclusion for No Negative Impact when Net Public Benefit is identified. www.dotdom2.state.pa.us/ceea/ceeamain.nsf

Pete Hanses, MDOT Manager of the Heritage Route Program (called Scenic Byways in some states) told of Michigan's three sub-designations for Historic Routes: Scenic, Historic, and Recreational. The 15 marked Heritage Routes vary in length from 1.5 to 200 miles, and total 700 miles of MDOT's 10,000 mile State Trunkline system. All were established by local grass-root efforts upward to MDOT (generally a 3 to 5 year process). Michigan's Heritage Routes combine Land Use and Transportation Use in a single set of written Goals and Management Plans. The Scenic designation is used to help justify different (lower) design standards and Design Exceptions.

Other States said they too have Scenic Byways, but not initiated by citizens or led by Citizens Steering Committees that MDOT is only a member of. Vermont uses Corten box beam guardrail along their two designated Scenic Highways, and Pennsylvania has designs to accommodate Amish buggies and scooters on widened paved shoulders.

Wednesday afternoon's field trip was along M-119 north of Harbor Springs, a designated Heritage Route due to its earlier history as an Indian trail and its current 16'-18' width winding through trees left at the edge of the pavement that does not contain a centerline for 18 crooked miles north to Cross Village. A baked-on brown coating is used over galvanized guardrail where installed at the infrequent locations. We then visited the Mackinac Bridge cable anchorage house, and US-2 along the Lake Michigan shoreline where snowplows are used in the summer to remove drifting sand under recent USFS Permit.

Returning to Mackinaw City, we visited two wind turbine generators on city property (www.mackinawcity.org) that each generate 900 kw energy to the electrical grid, enough to supply the required energy of the village's winter population. Instead of directly using this generated electricity, the city receives lease payments for sale to the grid. Each tower is 235 feet tall topped by a 10'x20' generator unit with aircraft warning light; plus an additional 80' height of the three rotating blades. After dinner, our concluding stop was the Pellston airport (PLN) built in 2003 to resemble a Northern Michigan Lodge, where the public walks in the door and straight to the first-floor or second-floor windows plane-side, while outgoing screened passengers are kept in a birch tree etched glass small enclosed holding area before boarding one of two jetways. Family members can wave to them through the plain glass on the 2nd floor public area.

The next meeting of TCED will be October 1-4, 2007 in Willmington Vermont, staying at the White House Inn www.whitehouseinn.com. Maryland will host us in Spring 2008 and Idaho in Fall 2008. One of the Vermont Agenda Items will be Election of a New Chair of TCED, in line with the SCOD and SCOH rules, since the Vermont meeting will be my last before my retirement from MDOT and TCED. TCED Members should be considering who you desire to lead you, for how long, and if/how the Elected Chair can fit into one of the existing or a future SCOD interpretation of Qualifications for Chair of any Technical Committee if we are not successful in requesting our TCED Chair automatically become a non-voting member of SCOD.

TCED currently has one vacancy in Region 3. Jim McDonnell advertised two Region 3 vacancies on TCED in Spring 2007 a second time, and only one applicant's name was received. Jim will check on the TCED membership status of Chris Dacus of Hawaii who wants to be a member of TCED but has very limited travel funds to attend our twice-yearly meetings. Until notified differently, we continue to include Chris in our TCED messages.

These minutes will be posted on the TCED portion of the AASHTO website, in addition to E-Mail distribution to members. I expect that Barbara Bauer will assume writing future TCED minutes, improving on my last two attempts.

Win Stebbins Chair, TCED Engineer of Design Services Michigan DOT 517 373-2246

cc: CarolAnn Wicks, Chair, SCOD carolann.wicks@state.de.us Mark Van Port Fleet, Engineer of Design, MDOT TCED Members

Dave Henderson, Chair, TC on H&H

TCED Members Attending May 7-10, 2007 in Michigan:

Greg Akers West Virginia

Barbara Bauer FHWA Washington DC

Karen Coffman Maryland Susan Knudson Georgia Shane Marshall Utah

Jim McDonnell AASHTO Washington DC (Tues only)

John Narowski Vermont
Keith Purvis Mississippi
Keith Robinson California
Tim Stark Wyoming
Win Stebbins Michigan
Dan Stewart Pennsylvania

Greg Vitley Idaho

Guests Attending and/or Presenting:
Bob Zelski Michigan DOT
Pete Hanses Michigan DOT
Gail Deans Michigan DOT

Dave Langhorst Michigan DOT

Tom Bailey Little Traverse Conservancy

Dr. Henry Singer M-119 Heritage Route Citizens Group

TCED Members not able to attend:

Phillip Bell New York
Jeff Caster Florida
Chris Dacus Hawaii
Louis Feagans Indiana
Tim Hill Ohio

TCED Members and Vacancies by AASHTO Region:

Region 1: MD, NY, PA, VT Region 2: FL, GA, MS, WV

Region 3: IN, MI, OH 1 vacancy

Region 4: CA, ID, UT, WY possibly also HA?

FHWA and AASHTO



Technical Committee on Environmental Design Meeting in Harbor Springs, Michigan May 7-10, 2007 Transportation and Conservation Easements: Public Use of Both

Monday May 7 arrival; MDOT pickups at Pellston & Traverse City airports 7p dinner at Boyne Highlands dining room after 6:30p Pellston arrivals **Tuesday May 8** 7a breakfast buffet in Boyne Highlands dining room meeting begins in adjacent building, 3 minute outside walk 8a Welcome, self introductions, new members, retirements, 2 vacancies Win Learning about Michigan, and MDOT Win AASHTO report Jim McDonnell SCOD June 2007 in Vt, new on-line bookstore, CSS location in AASHTO, Requirements for Next TCED Chair, SCOD org discussions, _____, FHWA report Barbara Bauer TCED business: TCED actions regarding SCOD rules on new Chairs Win and Tim Stark NCHRP Synthesis 361: Visualization 70 pg, by Phil Bell & Scott Bradley NCHRP rewrite of Landscape Guide, & how our TCED review will occur Summary of responses from HNTB on-line & phone interviews? Expected Chapter Headings; expected review schedule Keith R Possible future NCHRP research topics from TCED TCED items to SCOD June 2007: did anyone volunteer? For 2008? How to coordinate TCED interests with other TC's on mutual topics Rain Gardens w/ Hydraulics; ____ w/ ___; Green Highways Initiative: LEED (Leadership in Energy & Envir Design), DOTs building/buying/using recycled; stormwater; lighting levels; Safety vs Ecology; ____; ___ Will Green Highways spread nationwide? Other TCED topics: _____, ____ 9:30 break Topics/Presentations by TCED Members: 9:45 W Va Environmental Streamlining, esp RTE and Mussels Greg Akers PennDOT: Reduced Bridge Widths on Connector and Local Roads Dan Stewart & Streamlined Programmatic Section 4(f) checklist process MDOT Topics: Stormwater Powerpoint, (10 minutes) website www.michigan.gov/stormwatermgt & click on DOT the Drop Landscaping by Trimming/Removal to allow views from road Bob Zelski, LA MDOT's CSS Program: past and future activities Win DRIC and Blue Water International Bridges Customs/Toll Plazas Win other MDOT topics & speakers: ____, ____

Heritage Route Program: Coordinating Land Use and Transportation with communities Pete Hanses, Heritage Route Program Manager

10:30 Conservation Easements: to whom, MDOT involvement, public benefits, maint, Tom Bailey, Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Experience of other DOTs with Conservation Easements (which DOTs?)

12 min video of Bay Harbor redevelopment of limestone quarry and cement plant

12 noon Lunch in Boyne Highlands Snowflake Lounge

12:45 van tour of scenic US-31 to Charlevoix past LTC Ownerships & Easements,
 20-mile bike path, successful removal of Nuclear Plant on Lake Michigan,
 restoration of old train stations, Round Lake Marina, Petoskey City Hall
 Bay Harbor reclamation of former cement plant and limestone quarry, Bay
 View, Roaring Brook boardwalk and cottages into Harbor Springs

 5:30 - 7p Dinner at Walstrom Marine, Board Room, catered by Island Bean (Pam)
 8pm return to Boyne Highlands (darkness will be about 9 pm EDT)
 if time allows, we might drive part of M-119

Wednesday May 9

breakfast buffet at Boyne Highlands dining room 7a 8a meeting begins in adjacent building, 3 minute outside walk Additional discussion about TCED review of Landscape Guide rewrite Other TCED business: Kitty: \$675 sent from Wyo to Mich Next TCED meeting: Oct 1-4, 2007 in Wilmington, Vermont When to elect new Chair; whose rules? What if we elect a wrong person? 9:30 break 9:45 Additional TCED member topics: any CSS news, Green Highways, ____, ____ Member Interest in Possible Future Topics Other MDOT topics & speakers: new 'Local Roads' option to replace failed Petoskey Bypass, to reserve/preserve transportation corridors; Summer snow plowing US-2 sand dunes & T&E plants in USFS ROW Dave Schuen, Endangered Species Specialist Ulri Zav. Natural Features Coord. MDOT's Prescribed Fire Program 10:45 Michigan's Scenic Byways Program, & Protecting M-119 as a Scenic Highway, with strong public support Pete Hanses, Heritage Route Program Manager, and Henry Singer, interested local Citizen 11:45 Invitation to TCED's next meeting, Oct 1-4, 2007 in Vermont John N

12 noon Lunch at Boyne Highlands Snowflake Lounge

12:45 vans depart for M-119, Cross Village and Mackinaw City

2:30p arrive Mackinaw City; activities somewhat dependent on time and weather vans cross Mackinac Bridge to tour Cable Anchorages of suspension bridge Drive US-2 for 30 minutes along Lake Michigan shore to Cut River Bridge

Visit 2 Wind Generators in Mackinaw City; State Park Visitor Center built under Mackinaw Bridge

- 6p dinner at Audies Restaurant in Mackinaw City visit Pellston Airport enroute home
- 9p return to Boyne Highlands (darkness will be about 9 pm EDT)

Thursday May 10

- 7a Breakfast buffet at Boyne Highlands dining room Check Out
- 8a Concluding TCED meeting, and rides to Pellston and Traverse City Airports

AASHTO Technical Committee on Environmental Design Meetings Since 1990

		Michigan	September 10-11, 1990
California	April 29-30, 1991	Missouri	October 28-29, 1991
Oregon	July 16-17, 1992		
South Carolina	March 1-2, 1993	Delaware	October 4-5, 1993
Minnesota	June 23-24, 1994		
Wyoming	March 30-31, 1995	West Virginia	October 16-17, 1995
Pennsylvania	May 6-7, 1996	Missouri	October 15-16, 1996
Utah	May 13-14, 1997	Michigan	October 20-22, 1997
Delaware	April 26-28, 1998	Vermont	October 4-6, 1998
California	March 10-12, 1999	Wyoming	October 3-5, 1999
(Arizona	Spring, Not Held)	South Carolina	September 24-26, 2000
Missouri	April 22-24, 2001	Pennsylvania	Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2001
Utah	April 3-5, 2002	Michigan	October 2-4, 2002
North Carolina	April 9-11, 2003	New York	October 8-10, 2003
Minnesota	May 12-14, 2004	West Virginia	October 20-22, 2004
Mississippi	May 2-5, 2005	New Mexico	October 17-20, 2005
Florida	April 17-20, 2006	Wyoming	October 2-5, 2006
Michigan	May 7-11, 2007	Vermont	will be October 1-4, 2007
Maryland	Spring 2008	Idaho	Fall 2008

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MEMBERSHIP INFO

TCED Members' Mailing Address, Phone, Fax, E-Mail

June 5, 2007

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Current TCED Membership = 17 or 18 by AASHTO Region:

Region 1: MD, NY, PA, VT Region 2: FL, GA, MS, WV Region 3: IN, MI, OH Region 4: CA, ID, UT, WY HA? FHWA & AASHTO

1 Vacancy: Region 3

AASHTO TCED Members' Work Areas

June 5, 2007

Greg Akers West Virginia DOT

N Environmental Analyst

NEPA Project Manager

Streams, wetlands, freshwater

mussels

Barbara Bauer FHWA Washington DC D Pre-Construction Engineer

Phillip Bell New York State DOT LA Landscape Architect CAD Visualization Manager, CSS Leader

Jeff Caster Florida DOT
LA State Transportation Landscape
Architect since 1993
CSS Coordinator

Karen Coffman Maryland DOT

LA Registered Landscape Architect
Hydraulics and Stormwater Design
NPDES work

Chris Dacus Hawaii DOT LA Registered Landscape Architect

Louis Feagans Indiana DOT

D Design Project Management

Tim Hill Ohio DOT

N Admin, Office of Environmental
Services, NEPA
Chair, SCOE TC on Envir Process

Susan Knudson Georgia DOT

N Asst Environmental Administrator
NEPA, Public Involvement

Shane Marshall Utah DOT

N Environmental Engineer
Environmental Program Manager
NEPA, had 10 yrs Road Design

Jim McDonnell AASHTO, Wash DC AASHTO Liaison to TCED

John Narowski Vermont AOT VTrans

N Environmental Services Engineer
Manages all Cultural & Natural
resource assessments

Keith Purvis, PE Mississippi DOT
D Roadway Design Engineer
Wetland Permits
SCOD member

Keith Robinson Caltrans LA Principal Landscape Architect

Tim Stark Wyoming DOT

N Environmental Engineer
Environmental Services Manager
previously 14 yrs Design Engineer

Win Stebbins, PE Michigan DOT

D Design Services Engr since 1995
(Quality Assurance, Lettings)
also 15 yrs NEPA Environmental
Mitigation, 5 yrs Route Location

Dan Stewart Pennsylvania DOT
D Engineer, Design Quality
Assurance
Environmental work w/ Proj Devel
Heads CSS for PennDOT

Greg Vitley Idaho Transportation Dept
N Senior Environmental Planner
NEPA, NPDES, MS4, Air Quality
Conformity

Current TCED Membership = 18 1 Vacancy: Region 3 May 30, 2007 Current TCED Membership = 18 by AASHTO Region:

Region 1: MD, NY, PA, VT Region 2: FL, GA, MS, WV

Region 3: IN, MI, OH

Region 4: CA, HA, ID, UT, WY

FHWA & AASHTO

Vacancies:

Region 3: 1 vacancy

Membership by Discipline:

5 Design Engineers D
5 Landscape Architects LA
7 NEPA-related N

1 Liaison